WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia
WIKIPEDIA

Erin Moran

Erin Marie Moran-Fleischmann[1] (October 18, 1960 – April 22, 2017) was an American actress, best known for playing Joanie Cunningham on the television sitcom *Happy Days* and its spin-off *Joanie Loves Chachi*.[2][3]

Erin Moran	
Moran in 2008	
Born	Erin Marie Moran October 18, 1960 Burbank, California, U.S.
Died	April 22, 2017 (aged 56) New Salisbury, Indiana, U.S.
Other names	Erin Marie Fleischmann
Occupation	Actress
Years active	1966–2012
Known for	*Happy Days* *Joanie Loves Chachi*
Spouses	Rocky Ferguson (m. 1987; div. 1993) Steven Fleischmann (m. 1993)
Relatives	Tony Moran (brother)

Early life

Erin Marie Moran was born on October 18, 1960, in Burbank, California near Los Angeles and raised in nearby North Hollywood.[4][5] She was the second youngest of six children born to Sharon and Edward Moran. Her father was a finance manager, and her interest in acting was supported by her mother, who signed her with a talent agent when she was five years old.[4] Two of her brothers are also actors, John Moran and Tony Moran, the latter of whom played the unmasked Michael Myers in the movie *Halloween* (1978).

She would publicly accuse her father of physical and mental abuse in 1992.[6]

Career

Moran as Joanie Cunningham in 1976

Moran's first acting role was at the age of five in a television commercial for First Federal Bank.[4] At the age of seven, she was cast as Jenny Jones in the television series *Daktari*,[7] during its fourth and final season in 1968. She made her feature-film debut in *How Sweet It Is!* (1968) with Debbie Reynolds,[8] and made regular appearances on *The Don Rickles Show* in 1972, and guest appearances in *The Courtship of Eddie's Father*, *My Three Sons*, *Bearcats!*, *Family Affair* and in *The Waltons*, in an episode titled "The Song", in 1975. She also appeared in the television series *Gunsmoke*.[9]

In 1974, at the age of 13, Moran was cast to play her best-known role as Joanie Cunningham on the sitcom *Happy Days*, the younger sister of Richie Cunningham (Ron Howard). Moran continued the role in 1982 in the short-lived spin-off series *Joanie Loves Chachi*. Moran later stated that she had only reluctantly agreed to star in the series because she would have preferred to remain with *Happy Days*.[10][11] She won the Young Artist Award for Best Young Actress in a New Television Series for her role.[12][13] After *Joanie Loves Chachi*'s cancellation in 1983, she returned to *Happy Days* for its final season.[14]

In 1983, Moran said in an interview that the *Happy Days* producers had pressured her to change from about the age of 15: They "suddenly wanted me to lose weight and become this sexy thing."[11]

In the following years, Moran made several other television guest appearances, including *The Love Boat*, *Murder, She Wrote*,[14] and *Diagnosis: Murder*, and starred opposite Edward Albert in the cult sci-fi horror film *Galaxy of Terror* (1981).[15] She would become estranged from the Happy Days cast, with *People* claiming that she called them "evil" in an interview,[16] a statement she would deny on a later talk show.[6]

In 2008, she was a contestant on VH1's reality show *Celebrity Fit Club*.[17][18] Two years later, she made an appearance in the independent comedy feature *Not Another B Movie* (2010).[15]

Happy Days lawsuit

On April 19, 2011, Moran, three of her *Happy Days* co-stars—Don Most, Anson Williams, and Marion Ross—and the estate of Tom Bosley, who died in 2010, filed a $10 million breach-of-contract lawsuit against CBS, which owns the show. The suit claimed that cast members had not been paid merchandising revenues owed under their contracts. Revenues included those from show-related items such as comic books, T-shirts, scrapbooks, trading cards, games, lunch boxes, dolls, toy cars, magnets, greeting cards, and DVDs with cast members' likenesses on the box covers. Their contracts entitled the actors to be paid 5% of the net proceeds of merchandising if a single actor's likeness was used, and half that amount if the cast members were pictured in a group. CBS stated it owed the actors between $8,500 and $9,000 each, most of it from slot-machine revenues, but the group stated they were owed millions. The lawsuit was initiated after Ross was informed by a friend playing slots at a casino of a *Happy Days* machine on which players won the jackpot when five Marion Rosses were rolled.[19]

In October 2011, a judge rejected the group's claim of fraud, thereby eliminating the possibility of recouping millions of dollars in damages.[20] On June 5, 2012, a judge denied a motion to dismiss filed by CBS, which meant the case would go to trial on July 17 if not settled by then.[21] In July 2012, the actors settled their lawsuit with CBS; each received a payment of $65,000 and a promise from CBS to continue honoring the terms of their contracts.[22]

Personal life and death

In 1987, Moran married Rocky Ferguson. They divorced in 1993.[23] Later that year, she married Steven Fleischmann.[24]

After *Happy Days* and *Joanie Loves Chachi* were canceled, Moran moved from Los Angeles to the California mountains. She said in 1988 that she suffered from depression and was unable to get acting roles.[4] Moran confirmed news reports that her California home was foreclosed on in 2010,[25] following media claims that she had been served eviction papers and moved into her mother-in-law's trailer home in Indiana.[26] In 2017, *Variety* wrote that she "had fallen on hard times in recent years. She was reportedly kicked out of her trailer-park home in Indiana because of her hard-partying ways."[27]

On April 22, 2017, authorities in Corydon, Indiana were alerted about an unresponsive female, later identified as Moran. She later was pronounced dead at the age of 56.[5][28] An autopsy report from the Harrison County coroner indicated the cause of death to be complications of stage four squamous cell carcinoma of the throat.[29][30] Toxicology testing showed that no illegal narcotics were involved in her death, and no illegal substances were found in Moran's home.[31] Moran's husband, in an open letter released through her co-star Scott Baio, confirmed that she had first experienced symptoms of throat cancer around Thanksgiving 2016 and deteriorated rapidly from that point, and that the facilities that had unsuccessfully attempted to treat her cancer had not made anyone aware of how badly the cancer had metastasized.[32]

Filmography and television appearances

Film			
Year	**Title**	**Role**	**Notes**
1967	*Who's Minding the Mint?*	Little Girl on Tricycle	Uncredited
1968	*How Sweet It Is!*	Laurie	Starring James Garner and Debbie Reynolds
1969	*80 Steps to Jonah*	Kim	
1969	*The Happy Ending*	Marge Wilson as a Child	Uncredited
1970	*Watermelon Man*	Janice Gerber	
1977	*The Magic Pony*	The Magic Pony	Voice
1981	*Galaxy of Terror*	Alluma	Also starring Edward Albert
1996	*Dear God*	Herself	
1998	*Desperation Boulevard*	Herself	
2003	*Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star*	Herself	
2008	*Broken Promise*	Mrs. Watkins	
2010	*Not Another B Movie*	Mrs. Klien	
2012	*The Deceit*	Mrs. Shephard	Final film role
Television			
Year	**Title**	**Role**	**Notes**
1968	*Stanley vs. the System*		Television movie
1968–1969	*Daktari*	Jenny Jones	Main cast, season 4 (15 episodes)
1969	*Death Valley Days*	Mary Tugwell	2 episodes
1970–1973	*The F.B.I.*	Vickie Florea / Cindy Marot / Morrie Prager's daughter	3 episodes
1970–1971	*Family Affair*	Amy / Mary Ellen / Janet	3 episodes

1970	*The Courtship of Eddie's Father*	Emily Ruth Gustafson	Episode: "How Do You Know If It's Really Love?"
1970	*My Three Sons*	Victoria Lewis	Episode: "Dodie's Dilemma"
1971	*O'Hara, U.S. Treasury*	Little Girl	Episode: "Operation: Bribery"
1971	*The Smith Family*	Julie	Episode: "Father's Day"
1971	*Bearcats!*	Elisa Tillman	Episode: "Hostages"
1971	*Gunsmoke*	Rachel / Jenny	2 episodes
1972	*The Don Rickles Show*	Janie Robinson	Main cast (13 episodes)
1973	*Lisa, Bright and Dark*	Tracy Schilling	Television movie, also starring Anson Williams
1974–1984	*Happy Days*	Joanie Cunningham	Main cast (234 episodes)
1975	*The Waltons*	Sally Ann Harper	Episode: "The Song"
1975	*Dinah!*	Herself	
1976	*The Captain and Tennille*	Herself	
1978–1979	*The Hollywood Squares*	Herself	6 episodes
1978–1979	*The Mike Douglas Show*	Herself	2 episodes
1979	*Sitcom: The Adventures of Garry Marshall*	Herself	Uncredited
1979	*Greatest Heroes of the Bible*	Tova	Episode: "Tower of Babel"
1980–1985	*The Love Boat*	Carrie Walker / Joanne Morgan / Barbara Blatnick / Janet Reynolds	6 episodes
1980	*Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve*	Herself	Co-Host (with John Schneider)
1981	*Twirl*	Bonnie Lee Jordan	Television movie, also starring Lisa Whelchel
1981	*38th Golden Globe Awards*	Herself	
1982	*39th Golden Globe Awards*	Herself	
1982–1983	*Joanie Loves Chachi*	Joanie Cunningham	Lead role (17 episodes)
1983	*Hotel*	Karen Donnelly	Episode: "Hotel" (pilot episode)
1984	*Glitter*	Caroline Mason	Episode: "In Tennis, Love Means Nothing"
1984	*Tattletales*	Herself	

1984	*Match Game-Hollywood Squares Hour*	Herself	10 episodes
1986	*Murder, She Wrote*	Maggie Roberts	Episode: "Unfinished Business"
1992	*The Howard Stern Show*	Herself	
1998	*Diagnosis: Murder*	Cynthia Bennett	Episode: "Food Fight"
1999	*Celebrity Profile*	Herself	
1999	*Good vs. Evil*	Herself	Episode: "Gee Your Hair Smells Evil"
1999	*Entertainment Tonight Presents: Happy Days - Secrets*	Herself	
2000	*I Love 1970's*	Herself	
2001–2003	*Hollywood Squares*	Herself	7 episodes
2001	*Weakest Link*	Herself	
2001	*TVography: Happy Days*	Herself	
2002	*Inside TV Land: 40 Greatest Theme Songs*	Herself	
2003	*ABC's 50th Anniversary Celebration*	Herself	
2004	*Pyramid*	Herself	
2005	*Happy Days: 30th Anniversary Reunion*	Herself	
2006	*Where Are They Now?*	Herself	
2007	*Scott Baio is 45 and Single*	Herself	Episode: "Scott Baio Hires a Life Coach" (Part 1)"
2007	*The Singing Bee*	Herself	
2008	*Today*	Herself	
2008	*Celebrity Fit Club: Boot Camp*	Herself	
2008	*The Early Show*	Herself	
2008	*Fox Reality Awards*	Herself	
2008	*Whatever Happened To?*	Herself	
2008	*Mother Goose Parade*	Herself	
2009	*The Bold and the Beautiful*	Kelly DeMartin	Episode: "Episode #1.5691"
2009	*Catch 21*	Herself	
2010	*Totally Tracked Down*	Herself	Episode: "Erin Moran: Many More Happy Days"

2012	*Celebrity Ghost Stories*	Herself	Final television role

Soundtrack

- *Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star* (2003) ("Child Stars on Your Television")

Awards and nominations

Year	Association	Category	Nominated work	Result
1983	Young Artist Award	Young Artist Award for Best Young Actress in a New Television Series	Joanie Cunningham in Joanie Loves Chachi	Won
2006	TV Land Award	Most Wonderful Wedding	Joanie Cunningham in Happy Days shared with Scott Baio	Won

References

1. Puente, Maria. (April 24, 2017). Autopsy: 'Happy Days' actress Erin Moran likely died of cancer (https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/tv/2017/04/24/autopsy-happy-days-actress-erin-moran-likely-died-cancer/100842822/). *USA Today*. Retrieved April 27, 2017. "Erin Moran-Fleischmann, who was best known for playing Joanie Cunningham ..."
2. Heldman, Breanne (April 22, 2017). "Erin Moran, Happy Days star, dies at 56" (https://ew.com/tv/2017/04/22/erin-moran-dead-happy-days-star-dies/). *Entertainment Weekly*. New York City. Retrieved April 23, 2017.
3. "Actress Erin Moran of 'Happy Days' Dies at 56" (http://www.voanews.com/a/actress-erin-moran-dies/3821881.html). Washington, D.C.: Voice of America. Associated Press. April 22, 2017. Retrieved April 23, 2017.
4. Haag, Matthew (April 22, 2017). "Erin Moran, Who Played Joanie on 'Happy Days,' Dies at 56" (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/22/arts/television/erin-moran-dead-happy-days.html). *The New York Times*. New York City. Retrieved April 23, 2017.
5. Italie, Hillel (April 22, 2017). "Erin Moran, Joanie Cunningham in "Happy Days," dies at 56" (http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_OBIT_ERIN_MORAN?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-04-22-22-10-09). New York City: Board of Directors of AP. Associated Press. Retrieved April 22, 2017.
6. "Erin Moran: 'Happy Days' Weren't Too Happy" (https://www.newspapers.com/clip/116926555/erin-moran-happy-days-werent-too/). *Newsday (Nassau Edition)*. Hempstead NY. March 12, 1992. p. 9.
7. Rossi, Rosemary (April 22, 2017). "Erin Moran, of 'Happy Days' and 'Joanie Loves Chachi', Dead at 56" (https://web.archive.org/web/20170423152807/https://www.msn.com/en-us/tv/news/erin-moran-of-%E2%80%98happy-days%E2%80%99-and-%E2%80%98joanie-loves-chachi%E2%80%99-dead-at-56-report/ar-BBAa9ni). United States: MSN. Archived from the original (https://www.msn.com/en-us/tv/news/erin-moran-of-%E2%80%98happy-days%E2%80%99-and-%E2%80%98joanie-loves-chachi%E2%80%99-dead-at-56-report/ar-BBAa9ni) on April 23, 2017. Retrieved April 22, 2017.
8. Newman, Jason (April 22, 2017). "Erin Moran, Joanie in 'Happy Days,' Dead at 56" (https://www.rollingstone.com/tv/news/erin-moran-joanie-in-happy-days-dead-at-56-w478317). *Rolling Stone*. New York City: Wenner Media LLC. Retrieved April 23, 2017.

9. Sterling, Joe; Marco, Tony (April 22, 2017). "Erin Moran, 'Happy Days' actress, dead at 56" (http://www.cnn.com/2017/04/22/entertainment/happy-days-star-erin-moran-dead/index.html). Atlanta: CNN. Retrieved April 23, 2017.
10. Helsel, Phil; Dicasimirro, Gemma (April 22, 2017). "Erin Moran, Who Played Joanie on 'Happy Days', Dead at 56" (https://www.nbcnews.com/pop-culture/tv/erin-moran-who-played-joanie-happy-days-dead-56-n749791). *NBC News*. New York City. Retrieved April 23, 2017.
11. Ellis-Petersen, Hannah; Collins, Pádraig (April 23, 2017). "Erin Moran, actor who played Joanie Cunningham in Happy Days, dies at 56" (https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2017/apr/23/erin-moran-actor-who-played-joanie-cunningham-in-happy-days-dies-at-56). *The Guardian*. ISSN 0261-3077 (https://www.worldcat.org/issn/0261-3077). Retrieved April 24, 2017.
12. Crouse 2005, pp. 42–43.
13. "*Joanie Loves Chachi*: Season 1" (https://www.metacritic.com/tv/joanie-loves-chachi/details). United States: Metacritic. Retrieved April 23, 2017.
14. Aiello, McKenna (April 22, 2017). "Happy Days Star Erin Moran Dead at 56" (http://www.eonline.com/news/845424/happy-days-star-erin-moran-dead-at-56-report). Los Angeles: E!. Retrieved April 23, 2017.
15. Calvario, Liz (April 22, 2017). "Erin Moran Dies: 'Happy Days' Actress Was 56" (https://deadline.com/2017/04/erin-moran-dead-happy-days-actress-dies-56-1202075458/). *Deadline Hollywood*. United States. Retrieved April 23, 2017.
16. Peterson, Bettelou (April 22, 1992). "Celebrity Q&A -- Where's Erin Moran?" (https://www.newspapers.com/clip/116926379/summary-of-erin-morans-people-magazine/). *The Salt Lake Tribune*. Salt Lake City UT. p. 2 EV.
17. Deerwester, Jayme (April 22, 2017). " 'Happy Days' star Erin Moran dies at 56" (https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/people/2017/04/22/happy-days-star-erin-moran-dies-at-56/100806014/). *USA Today*. McLean, Virginia. Retrieved April 23, 2017.
18. Bowman, Emma (April 22, 2017). "Actress Erin Moran, Joanie Of 'Happy Days,' Dies At 56" (https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/04/23/525281073/actress-erin-moran-joanie-of-happy-days-dies-at-56). Washington, D.C.: NPR. Retrieved April 23, 2017.
19. Zamost, Scott (April 20, 2011). " 'Happy Days' actors claim fraud, money owed for merchandising" (https://money.cnn.com/2011/04/19/news/companies/happy_days_fraud_claim/). Atlanta: CNN. Retrieved April 23, 2017.
20. Gardner, Eriq (June 5, 2012). " 'Happy Days' Actors Win Key Ruling in CBS Lawsuit" (https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/thr-esq/happy-days-cbs-merchandising-lawsuit-333369). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Los Angeles: Eldridge Industries. Retrieved April 23, 2017.
21. Zamost, Scott (June 5, 2012). " 'Happy Days' cast members' lawsuit heading for trial" (http://www.cnn.com/2012/06/05/showbiz/happy-days-lawsuit/index.html). Atlanta: CNN. Retrieved April 23, 2017.
22. Zamost, Scott (July 7, 2012). " 'Happy Days' actors settle lawsuit with CBS" (http://www.cnn.com/2012/07/06/showbiz/happy-days-lawsuit-settled/index.html). Atlanta: CNN. Retrieved April 23, 2017.
23. Petit, Stephanie (April 23, 2017). "Erin Moran Said Her First Husband Struggled with Her Fame, Wanted Her to be 'Unrecognizable' " (https://people.com/celebrity/erin-moran-said-first-husband-struggled-with-her-fame-wanted-her-unrecognizable-rocky-ferguson/). People Magazine. Retrieved May 17, 2023.
24. De Nunzio, Miriam (April 23, 2017). "Erin Moran, starred as Joanie on 'Happy Days,' has died" (http://chicago.suntimes.com/entertainment/erin-moran-starred-as-joanie-on-happy-days-has-died/). *Chicago Sun-Times*. Chicago: Sun-Times Media Group (Wrapports LLC). Retrieved April 23, 2017.

25. Chaney, Jen (April 19, 2011). " 'Happy Days' cast members file lawsuit" (https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/celebritology/post/happy-days-cast-members-file-lawsuit/2011/04/19/AFDgnE6D_blog.html). *The Washington Post*. Washington, D.C.: Nash Holdings LLC. Retrieved April 22, 2017.
26. Marikar, Sheila (June 8, 2012). " 'Happy Days' Star Erin Moran Living in Trailer to Help Ailing Mother-in-Law" (https://abcnews.go.com/blogs/entertainment/2012/06/happy-days-star-erin-moran-living-in-trailer-to-help-ailing-mother-in-law/). *Good Morning America*. ABC News. Retrieved April 22, 2017.
27. Oldham, Stuart (April 22, 2017). " 'Happy Days' Star Erin Moran Dies at 56" (https://variety.com/2017/tv/news/happy-days-star-erin-moran-dies-at-56-1202393048/). *Variety*. Los Angeles. Retrieved April 22, 2017.
28. " 'Happy Days' Star Erin Moran Dead At 56" (https://www.tmz.com/2017/04/22/happy-days-star-erin-moran-dead/). *TMZ*. Los Angeles. April 22, 2017. Retrieved April 22, 2017.
29. Nolasco, Stephanie (April 25, 2017). "Erin Moran's husband reveals her tragic final days with skin cancer" (http://www.foxnews.com/entertainment/2017/04/25/erin-morans-husband-reveals-her-tragic-final-days-with-skin-cancer.amp.html). Fox News Channel. Retrieved April 27, 2017.
30. Warner, Kara (April 24, 2017). "Erin Moran's Happy Days Costar Anson Williams Reveals She Was Unable to Speak Due to Throat Cancer: 'We All Kept Quiet out of Respect' " (http://people.com/tv/erin-moran-happy-days-costar-anson-williams-talks-throat-cancer/amp/). *People*. Retrieved April 25, 2017.
31. Sayers, Justin (April 24, 2017). " 'Happy Days' star Erin Moran likely died of cancer, Harrison County coroner says" (http://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/indiana/2017/04/24/happy-days-star-erin-moran-likely-died-cancer-harrison-county-coroner-says/100842220/). *The Courier-Journal*. Retrieved April 24, 2017.
32. Nolasco, Stephanie (April 25, 2017). "Erin Moran's husband reveals her tragic final days with skin cancer" (http://www.foxnews.com/entertainment/2017/04/25/erin-morans-husband-reveals-her-tragic-final-days-with-skin-cancer.html). Fox News Channel. Retrieved April 27, 2017.

Further reading

Crouse, Richard (2005). *Reel Winners: Movie Award Trivia* (https://archive.org/details/reelwinnersmovie0000crou/page/42). Toronto: Dundurn Press. pp. 42–43 (https://archive.org/details/reelwinnersmovie0000crou/page/42). ISBN 978-1550025743.

External links

- Erin Moran (https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0602844/) at IMDb
- Erin Moran (https://web.archive.org/web/*/https://www.tcm.com/tcmdb/person/135015%7C*) at the TCM Movie Database
- Erin Moran (https://www.allmovie.com/artist/p50439) at AllMovie

---

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Erin_Moran&oldid=1192931650"